

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VALLET 00341 251843Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 AID-05
OMB-01 TRSE-00 IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /096 W
-----252005Z 107670 /41

P 251740Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7291
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0341

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, FR, IT, MT
SUBJECT: MALTESE SET NEW DEADLINE IN TALKS
WITH FRENCH/ITALIANS

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY ABELA CALLED ME IN LATE TODAY TO
GIVE ME COPY OF LETTER SENT BY MINTOFF TO ANDREOTTI
MARCH 24 SETTING DEADLINE OF MARCH 31 FOR RESPONSE TO
WHAT LETTER DESCRIBES AS HIS "EURO-ARAB SOLUTION FOR
AFTER MARCH 1979" PROPOSED BY GOM.

2. MINTOFF FLEW TO LAONDON EARLIER THIS WEEK ON WHAT
WAS TERMED PRIVATE VISIT FOCUSING MAINLY ON TLAKS WITH
BRITISH INDUSTRIALISTS ON FUTURE INVESTMENTS HERE.
MINTOFF ALSO SAW OWEN BUT NOT CALLAGHAN BECAUSE OF
CONFIDENCE VOTE. ORIGINAL ITINERARY WOULD HAVE
INCLUDED SHORT STOPS BONN AND ROME AS WELL, BUT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VALLET 00341 251843Z

THESE FELL THROUGH BECAUSE MINTOFF FAILED TO GET
ASSURANCES HE COULD SEE EITHER SCHMIDT OR ANDREOTTI.
BOTH GOVERNMENTS APPARENTLY TOOK POSITION THAT EC
HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN ROME THIS
WEEKEND MADE MEETINGS IMPOSSIBLE.

3. MINTOFF OBVIOUSLY WAS IRRITATED BY THIS PUTOFF AND

DECIDED TO TRY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ROME EC SESSION TO TRY HEAVY-HANDED PRESSURE TACTICS.

4. LETTER TO ANDREOTTI (TEXT SEPTEL) SAYS THAT HE HAD EARLIER INFORMED GOI THAT MALTA WAS NOT PREPARED TO SEE ANOTHER EC MEETING AT THIS LEVEL TAKE PLACE "WITHOUT REACHING A CLEAR-CUT NEGATIVE OR POSITIVE DECISION ON MALTA'S PROPOSAL." IF FAVORABLE ANSWER NOT RECEIVED BY MARCH 31, THE MALTESE PROPOSAL WOULD BE WITHDRAWN AND MALTA WOULD THEN FEEL OBLIGED TO PICK UP OPTION OF GOING IT ALONE WITH LIBYA AND ALGERIA.

5. ABELA TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO PUT TO MINTOFF ANY QUESTIONS I MIGHT HAVE ON LETTER (AND ON SEPARATE LETTER TO GERMAN AMBASSADOR HERE IN WHICH MINTOFF INDICATES HIS IRRITATION OVER FAILURE TO WORK OUT SCHMIDT MEETING). I DELIBERATELY AVOIDED DOING SO, BUT PROBED WITH ABELA JUST WHAT SPECIFIC OPTION MINTOFF HAD IN HAND FROM LIBYA. ABELA CLAIMED THAT OPTION WAS REAL AND TANGIBLE, THAT "FINAL" LIBYAN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN RECEIVED ONLY TWO DAYS AGO AND THAT ALGERIA LIKELY TO BE POSITIVE TOO.

6. ONLY OTHER COMMENT I MADE WAS THAT I THOUGHT THIS WAS TOO COMPLEX AND IMPORTANT AN ISSUE TO BE WELL-SERVED BY DEADLINES OF THIS NATURE AND THAT I HAD UNDERSTOOD A DIALOGUE WAS IN ANY EVENT UNDERWAY WITH FRENCH/ITALIANS. MOREOVER REAL PROBLEM OF 1979 WAS JOBS AND INVESTMENT AND THIS WAS SOMETHING ALL OF US, GOM INCLUDED, WERE ACTIVELY PURSUING.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VALLET 00341 251843Z

7. COMMENT: I WOULD EXPECT THAT MINTOFF'S IRRITATION, WHICH IS NO DOUBT REAL, WILL BE AT LEAST MATCHED BY IRRITATION ON EC-9 OVER THIS KIND OF RENEWED ULTIMATUM IN A CONTEXT WHERE MINTOFF'S CARDS ARE NOT ALL THAT STRONG AND WHERE HIS BLUFF CAN AND SHOULD BE CALLED BY A RESPONSE VIA THE ITALIANS THAT MAKES CLEAR THAT A DIALOGUE IS IN ORDER AND CAN BE ACCELERATED BUT THAT CAPITULATION IS NOT. I WILL DEFER FURTHER COMMENT UNTIL I HAVE TALKED TO MY ITALIAN AND BRITISH COLLEAGUES WHO WENT TO THEIR RESPECTIVE CAPITALS FOR MINTOFF VISITS. LAINGEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MEETING AGENDA, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977VALLET00341
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770103-0393
Format: TEL
From: VALLETTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770320/aaaaaauk.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7320d0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2990881
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MALTESE SET NEW DEADLINE IN TALKS WITH FRENCH/ITALIANS
TAGS: PFOR, FR, IT, MT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7320d0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009